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Issued in the interest of corn-borer control conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State departments of agriculture and State agricultural colleges in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

No. 23

Washington, D. C.

November 26, 1927

SECRETARY JARDINE EXPRESSES ATTITUDE OF THE DEPARTMENT



In a release to the press November 23, Secretary William M. Jardine stated that the immediate clean-up of 15,000 acres of bottom land along rivers leading out of corn-borer territory to prevent long-distance spread of the borer is the first objective in the plans of the United States Department of Agriculture for controlling the borer in 1928. In accomplishing this clean-up of river-bottom acreage, reimbursement will be made to farmers who conduct a satisfactory voluntary clean-up. The reimbursement will be made at the rate of not more than \$2 per acre, the maximum rate in effect during the spring campaign.

"This clean-up of the river-bottom area," said Secretary Jardine, "is in line with the policy the department has adopted in regard to further corn-borer control activities, which is to concentrate the department's effort on the prevention of long-distance spread of the borer, leaving to the State governments in infested territory the responsibility of holding down the increase in the number of borers below serious commercial damage. The department's plans for the prevention of long-distance spread of the borer in addition to the immediate clean-up of river-bottom lands include cooperation with the States in scouting to discover infestations in new territory, in the maintenance of strict quarantines to prevent the spread of the borer by human agencies, and in obtaining a thorough clean-up of infested corn-borer acreage on a nonreimbursement basis to farmers during the spring of 1928.

"It is the opinion of the department experts," the Secretary stated, "that serious commercial injury by the corn borer can be largely prevented if farmers will adhere to the low-cutting, clean-plowing, poling, raking, and burning methods of control. It is considered that this work will not involve much

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extra expense other than that which the farmers would need to incur for their own protection."

The Federal cooperation with the State regulatory officials which is planned will be financed by the use of the remainder of the \$10,000,000 appropriation for corn-borer control made by Congress in February of this year, together with funds available from the States. The department estimates that a compulsory clean-up of 20 per cent of the total corn acreage in the more heavily infested portion of last spring's campaign area will be necessary after farmers have accomplished what they can through voluntary control measures.

After July 1, 1928 it is expected that infested States will take full responsibility for necessary regulatory measures, the department concentrating its efforts on scouting and quarantine activities essential to the prevailing long-distance spread of the borer. As a part of its regular work, the department in cooperation with the State agricultural colleges and experiment stations has organized a comprehensive program for investigation and education relating to corn-borer control, which will be followed up vigorously. The investigational work includes studies of the life history, habits, and relation of the borer to environment, the breeding of varieties of corn adapted to corn-borer conditions, the development of parasites of the borer, research in the use of different fertilizers, and the improvement of machinery for mechanical control.

The educational work will be carried on as a part of the activities of the cooperative extension service of the department and the State agricultural colleges. These educational activities will include public demonstrations in effective mechanical control methods such as plowing, raking, burning, and low cutting of standing stalks, illustrated talks at community meetings, observation tours by farmers into heavily infested areas, bulletins and circulars on control methods, and news items on the progress being made by the farmers and cooperating agencies in meeting the advance of the borer.

A number of photographs illustrating fall activities in the quarantine area have been taken by a department photographer in connection with corn-borer control.

TEACHING RESEARCH AND EXTENSION
AGRICULTURISTS OUT CHICAGO WAY

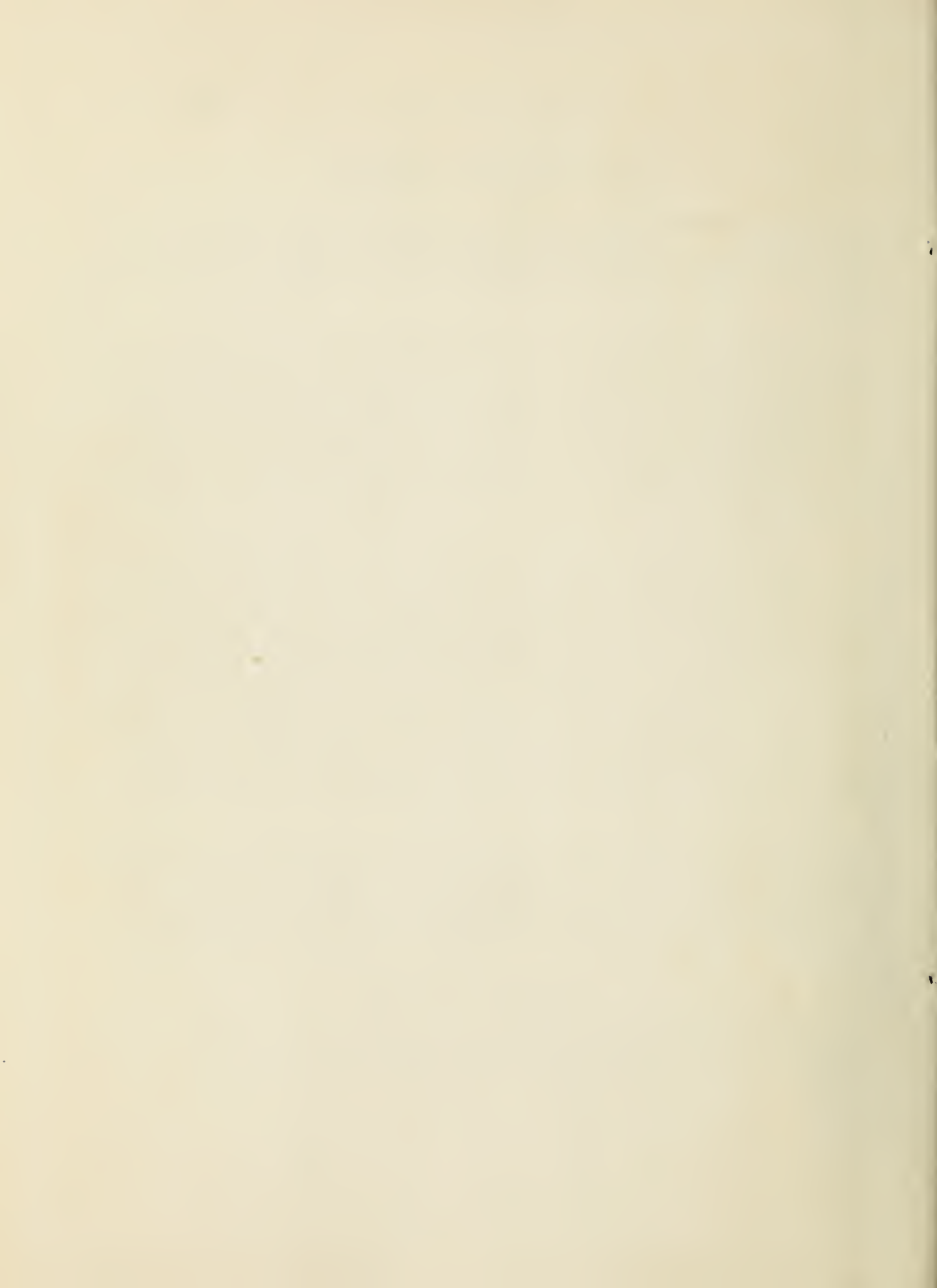
At a meeting of the section of agriculture of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, which held its annual conference in Chicago last week, W. H. Larrimer of the Bureau of Entomology, in immediate charge of the corn-borer campaign, gave an address on "progress in corn-borer control."

Doctor Larrimer stated that mechanical control of the corn borer by low cutting of standing corn, plowing under or burning of cornstalks and debris, and shredding or ensiling fodder is regarded by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as being the most effective way yet devised of dealing with the borer menace. "It has long been known," said Doctor Larrimer, "that the insect usually passes several months of its life in a more or less useless portion of its host plant. By the destruction of such material it seems reasonable to expect a degree of control in proportion to the completeness of the operation."

It was pointed out by Doctor Larrimer that ever since the corn borer was discovered near Boston, Mass., in 1917, intensive studies have been made to determine the most practical method of control. He continued: "It is quite obvious that research must accompany the development of various control measures in order that they may be effective, practical, and economical. The question of natural control by parasites and unfavorable weather conditions has received appropriate attention. Another very interesting problem of control yet to be solved is the development of varieties of corn which may tolerate, evade, or possibly resist corn-borer attack. The most important task now to be accomplished, undoubtedly, is to get the farmers to realize the danger which threatens and to adopt control measures in time to prevent the tremendous losses which this insect, unless controlled, will certainly inflict."

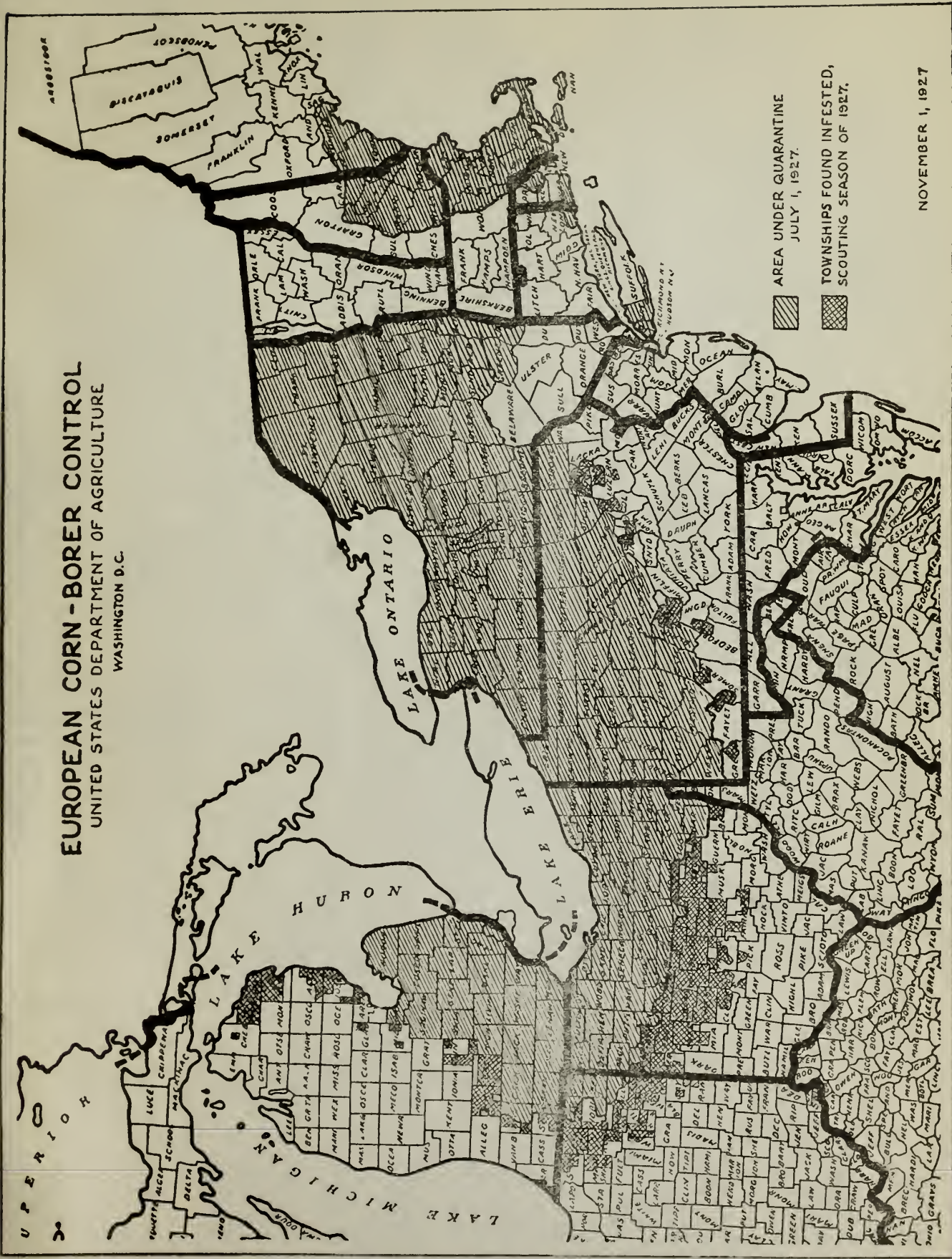
Doctor Larrimer emphasized the fact that the problem of corn-borer control is of vital interest to everyone in the Corn Belt and made a strong plea for a continuation of the splendid efforts to control the borer, of farmers, business men, the press, agricultural investigators, extension workers, regulatory officials, and others interested in the agriculture of the Corn Belt.

On the following page will be found a map showing the new territory discovered in 1927 to be slightly infested by the corn borer.



EUROPEAN CORN-BORER CONTROL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON D.C.



AREA UNDER QUARANTINE
JULY 1, 1927.

TOWNSHIPS FOUND INFESTED,
SCOUTING SEASON OF 1927.

NOVEMBER 1, 1927



Sketch of the
Coastal Region of
California